

MPO POLICY BOARD Minutes
March 16, 2023 • 2:00 pm
Virtual / Tippecanoe County Office Building

The meeting was held virtually. Members of the public may watch the livestream of the meeting at <https://www.facebook.com/TippecanoeCountyIndiana> or <https://www.youtube.com/c/TippecanoeCountyGovernment>

Members Present

Tony Roswarski	Mayor, City of Lafayette
John Dennis	Mayor, City of West Lafayette
Tracy Brown	Tippecanoe County Commissioner
Cindy Murray (proxy for Gary Henriott)	Lafayette Board of Works
Peter Bunder	West Lafayette City Council
Larry Leverenz	President, Area Plan Commission
Julie Ginn	Chairman, Board of Directors for CityBus
Scott Chandler	INDOT

Absent Voting Members

Kevin Underwood	President, County Council
Perry Brown	Lafayette City Council

Non-Voting Members Present

Stu Kline	Tippecanoe County Highway
Bryan Smith	CityBus
Dave Griffiee	City of Lafayette
David Hittle	APC
Doug Poad	APC
Tim Stroshine	APC
Aria Staiger	APC

Tony Roswarski called the meeting to order at 2:00 PM and conducted roll call of the members present.

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

John Dennis moved to approve the minutes from the February 9, 2023 meeting. Tracy Brown seconded, and the minutes, as submitted, were approved by unanimous roll call vote.

II. ADMINISTRATIVE MODIFICATION FOR THE FY 2022-2026 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP)

A. March 02, 2023

Doug Poad reminded everyone that when a modification to the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) is made, it is presented to this committee. On March 2, 2023, a TIP modification was processed for the City Bus bus stop project. STBG federal funds were flexed from the Federal Highway Administration to the Federal Transit Administration so that City Bus could build six bus stops. Because this project is only shown for information in Appendix 9, staff was instructed to move this through the TIP amendment process. The project has been stalled for various reasons and now City Bus is moving forward with the plans. To obligate the federal funds, it must be listed in Table 4, the funded local project list. This process will begin at next week's Technical Transportation Committee meeting and then it will be brought back to this committee next month for review and hopeful adoption.

III. APC PROGRESS REPORT

A. MPO UPDATE

i. SS4A and RAISE funding

David Hittle said the Safe Streets for All (SS4A) grant was done in conjunction with the Wabash River Enhancement Corporation (WREC) with the goal of creating a new multi-use path along Ninth Street, connecting Lafayette, on its northern boundary, to Prophetstown State Park. That grant was not approved, and no commentary was received back from the reviewers. The application will be submitted again next year with the hope of improving our offering the next time around.

David Hittle went on to say another project proposal was submitted with WREC for RAISE funding, another federal pot of funds, that would create a multi-use path using Ninth Street, Sagamore Parkway and River Road as the legs of the loop. This would connect the cities, several parks, and commercial and residential areas. Kimley-Horn helped with this and did an excellent job. David is hopeful the package will be approved. This is the second attempt, as it was applied for last year and was denied, but that experience was used to put together a better package this year. Staff should find out if we were approved for the proposal sometime next month.

ii. US Bike Route (USBR) 37

Doug Poad provided an update to the status of this proposed bike route. He spoke with INDOT staff at Road School, and he heard that INDOT is doing a few checks and will be processing the application for this route later this month. If this occurs, it will go to ASHTO for their review, and hopeful approval, in April. Doug will follow-up at the end of March to check on the status of the application.

iii. Teal Road / Norfolk & Southern Railroad Discussion

Doug Poad referred to the road construction diagram of US 52 being reconstructed. There are two locations where no sidewalks are being constructed: from South Fourth Street to just west of Central Catholic and the north and south sides of the bridge over the Norfolk & Southern Railroad. On February 22, 2023, an early coordination letter was received from INDOT regarding a bridge project for that bridge. Doug was initially excited by the letter because when the Teal Road project was being developed, no sidewalks were going to be constructed at this railroad bridge, but when the bridge project was to come forward, sidewalks would be constructed. In reading the proposed improvements listed in the coordination letter, existing overlay surface will be removed, hydro demolition will occur, and two-and-a-half inches of new ridge concrete deck overlay will be applied. They will do a full-width approach slab construction, install new deck drains and new curbs. APC staff submitted a letter, asking for discussion regarding sidewalks. A response was received today from the INDOT project manager and reads in part:

"The bridge deck and perhaps the superstructure to add sidewalks, would need to be modified... at this time adding these pedestrian modifications to the project would be determined excessively disproportionate to the need identified... the existing bridge deck was previously replaced and widened in 1978 and with these improvements, the bridge will then have an extended service life for another 20 to 30 years.... a bridge treatment replacement project would be programmed in FY 2043."

INDOT opened the door to discuss a low-cost possibility of adding pedestrian amenities, but not widening the bridge. We may not see sidewalks in this misfit place for twenty years from now, so APC wanted to bring this to the attention of this committee. Doug added that he hopes to have internal discussion on how to address these missing sections, other than waiting for a bridge project to happen twenty years from now.

Tony Roswarski spoke on behalf of the City of Lafayette. He is dumbfounded that sidewalks are not part of this project. With the growth in that area and the number of kids walking, he doesn't understand why these sidewalks have been left out with the missing pieces that we have. When the City took over Sagamore Parkway from the State, the City designed it to have sidewalks and trails which were not in the original plans. These sidewalks are constantly used by people walking, people on the trails, cycling, and getting to public transportation to then walk the rest of the way to their jobs. He added that this is baffling to him, that the City is having to fight this hard to get a few sections of sidewalks put in with this project.

Scott Chandler with INDOT added that his staff is more than willing and wanting to partner on trying to connect the pedestrian facilities on either side of the bridge. If there was a commitment made, he is hearing that for the first time today, and did not know there was a commitment made previously. His staff is always willing to talk about the different programs that are available to help local communities build these features. If someone wishes to meet and talk, he is willing to do that. He asked those interested to reach out to him.

Tony Roswarski said the City would appreciate that and they are always open to those discussions. He added that in the past, it has been brought up about wanting to relinquish this road to the City, but in looking at some of the calculations, it makes it very challenging for a community to take something over, and then to take it over with such gaps in sidewalks and other things, he doesn't see how it would make sense for a community. He is more than happy to talk about it, to look at it holistically, for now and in the future.

iv. FY 2024-2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Development Update

Doug Poad said the draft document was completed two weeks prior to the initial milestone date. Comments have been received from INDOT's Central office in piecemeal, as different people look at separate sections of the document. The first two comments that were received have been responded to and a third set of comments, received this week, will be addressed by staff. Comments from the Federal Highway Administration asked for clarification to be added into the document and those have been addressed and submitted. Doug still anticipates starting the adoption process next month at the Technical Transportation Committee meeting and then once the comments and questions have been answered, the completed document will be up for review and possible adoption in May 2023.

v. Federal Funding Obligation

Doug Poad said the status report is unchanged. There is a balance of federal funds, a bit over \$5.6 million, which is all allocated to the Yeager Road project. This project was on the January bid letting, but unfortunately, the two bids that were submitted came in over the engineer's estimate. The project was moved to the March bid letting and those bids were opened yesterday. The engineer's estimate was \$9.63 million. Atlas Excavating was the low bid at \$8.725 million. This project is not an 80/20% split, but roughly 65% federally funded. If the County decides to move forward with this project, the County will have to make up over \$3 million. We are awaiting a decision to move forward to obligate these federal funds.

B. INDOT 18-Month Letting List

Doug Poad began with the projects on the February bid letting list. These three projects are in one contract and was awarded to Milestone Contractors for \$2.632 million. The estimated contract completion date is May 15, 2024. There are two projects on the April letting and two in May. After those projects, the new fiscal year begins. Project 14 is a traffic signal modernization project that is new and set for a July bid letting. Project 15 was moved from April to August. Two county projects, bridges 64 and 65 over Lilly Road, are showing for a July 2024 letting.

Scott Chandler addressed some changes to this list. Project 9, the concrete pavement restoration, has moved from a July letting to a November 15, 2023 letting, to help coordinate local detours and interstate congestion policy waivers. Project 13, the institutional funds project, is moving from fiscal year 2024 to 2026, most likely due to funding shortages. Project 14, the traffic signal modernization, is moving from the July letting up to the May letting list.

IV. QUARTERLY REPORTS

A. Quarterly Project Tracking Summary

Tim Stroshine presented an update to projects within the county and two cities. The Lindberg Road project will be closed out after some final accounting is completed. River Road at CR 500 North is open to traffic and the project is progressing. The Morehouse Road project is one of the major projects that will be funded with the new TIP, and both phases are on track. The County Highway Department is working with APC to

sort out the funding of each phase because the project is so expensive. The Yeager Road project was moved to a March letting date and is awaiting decisions. Bridges #80 and #83 have been amended into the TIP but there is a delay in having them amended into the STIP. Bridge #527 will be moved to a November letting. Staff has had conversations with the county highway engineer because there have been some complicating factors that have been introduced and will have to have the project loop back a bit. The City of Lafayette saw a slight cost increase for the South Ninth Street project. The Park East Boulevard project has one remaining purchase order open and will then be closed out. West Lafayette is seeing construction progress for the Sagamore Trail project. The Soldiers Home Road project has been split into different Des numbers and there are also some potential Des numbers for portions of that project. Staff will work closely with the City of West Lafayette to ensure proper tracking and documentation for the work they want to do.

V. OTHER BUSINESS

None.

VI. CITIZEN COMMENTS

A one-minute pause took place to allow for comments. There were none.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

John Dennis moved to adjourn. Cindy Murray seconded, and the meeting was adjourned by unanimous roll call vote.

The meeting adjourned at 2:30 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kristina Lamb
Recording Secretary

Reviewed By,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Hittle". The signature is stylized with a long horizontal line under the first name and a shorter one under the last name.

David Hittle
Executive Director